SATO.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE HUNG OUT, JUST THE TWO OF US.

YOU SURE YOU'RE FINE FOR TODAY?

AH-

THERE YOU ARE, SHOUKO-CHAN.

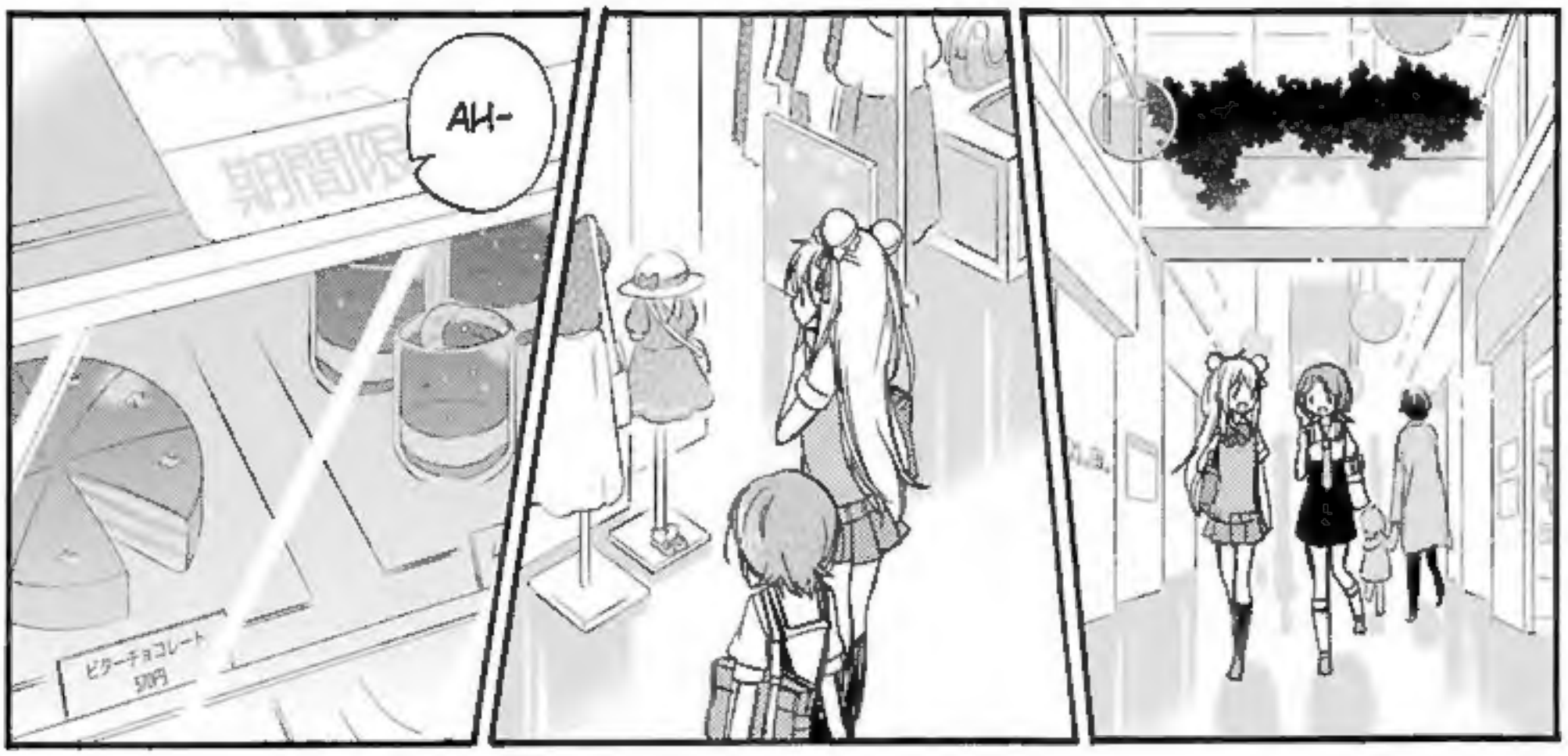
WELL THEN, I SHALL BE GENEROUS AND TREAT YOU TO SOME-THING.

EEH~ I'M SO GLAD, SHOUKO-SAMA.

I'VE BEEN LONELY ALSO, SINCE WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER LATELY.

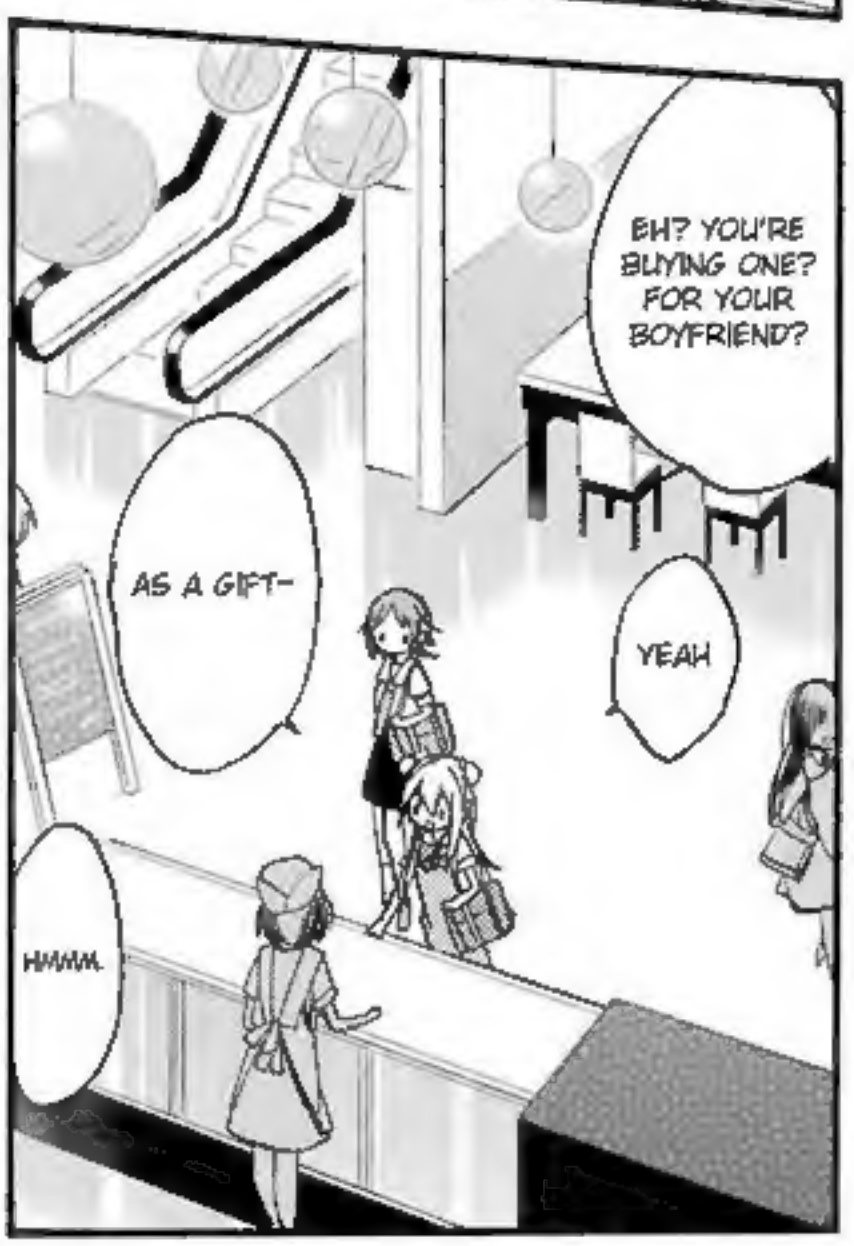
OF COURSE.

14TH LIFE
IF I CROSS THAT LINE...


AH-
ピターチョコレート
500円

HEE~
IT'S SO FLUFFY AND DELICIOUS.
PLEASE TAKE ONE
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS A NEW CAKE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCAHSE.


EH? YOU'RE BUYING ONE? FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND?
AS A GIFT-
YEAH
HMMM.

LET'S GO THAT WAY NEXT.
AH, OKAY.

NAIL POLARIS

LOOK!

A NEW NAIL SALON.

期間限定

Polaris

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DOING YOUR NAILS LATELY, HAVE YOU?

KEEP THAT UP AND YOUR BOYFRIEND WILL SAY SOMETHING-

IT'S FINE.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, AREN'T YOU BUYING ANYTHING?

HMM, I DON'T THINK SO.

I DON'T WANT TO SPEND TOO MUCH.

YOU KEEP SAYING THAT...

UNDERWEAR TOO, YOU ONLY BOUGHT THE PLAIN KIND WITH NO SEX APPEAL.

PLUS, YOU KINDA GOT A LOT...

But my intuition tells me something's wrong.

I knew it.

If she'd just said, "That's the kind of guy he is," then that would be the end of it.

I have to ask.

If I don't,

I'll never move past this.

After all,

HEY, SATO,

I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE, BUT,

SATO,

YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE A "BOYFRIEND", DO YOU?

.....

YOU'RE DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE,

AND I CAN TELL YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND.

WHAT ARE-

I CAN TELL.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE MET YEST-ERDAY.

I KNOW YOU.

YOU FOUND YOUR BELOVED AND QUIT MESSING AROUND WITH GUYS.

TO BE HONEST, I FOUND IT HARD TO DEAL WITH, AND I FELT REALLY LONELY AS WELL.

BUT I THOUGHT, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY, IT'S FINE.

I COULD SEE HOW INCREDIBLE YOU ARE WHEN YOU WORK SO HARD, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE SHINING.

WHEN I THINK BACK,

BUT ALSO,

I NOTICED THAT SOMETHING WAS OFF WITH YOU.

AND NOW I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...

IT STARTED SOME TIME IN MARCH.

TO ALL OF US?

WHY WOULD YOU LIE TO ME-

...-GH

WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU DO THAT ...?

I CARE ABOUT YOU!

SATO!

I'M WORRIED THAT YOU MIGHT'VE GOTTEN DRAGGED INTO SOMETHING UGLY.

I CONSIDER YOU MY BEST FRIEND.

WHATEVER HAPPENED, I WILL ACCEPT YOU.

I WANT TO HELP YOU, I'LL DO ANYTHING I CAN.

SO PLEASE TALK TO ME.

I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

I WISH YOU WOULD TELL ME.

SORRY, I CAN'T.

.....

SHOUKO-CHAN,

I JUST DON'T WANT TO DRAG YOU INTO THIS.

BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY "NORMAL".

YOU SEE,

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I CAN'T DISCUSS,

.....

HMMM,

I JUST DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU.

SO STAY OUT OF IT.

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET ANY MORE INVOLVED.

AND I DO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE SAYING THIS BECAUSE YOU WORRY ABOUT ME.

I KNOW VERY WELL YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON.

SATO-

LET'S CONTINUE TO BE GOOD FRIENDS, JUST LIKE WE HAVE BEEN UP TILL NOW.

AH-

OKAY?

AAH.

THE TEA HERE IS REALLY TASTY.

FUFU

SHE PUSHED ME AWAY...?

BEFORE IT'S ALL TOO LATE-

IT'S USELESS...

MAYBE I SHOULD BUY SOME TO TAKE HOME.

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD PUSH HER TO OPEN UP TO ME ANY MORE THAN THIS...

THEY WERE SELLING IT AT THE REGISTER.

AH- BUT COCOA MIGHT BE BETTER.

SOMETHING SWEET WOULD PROBABLY BE A BETTER GIFT

SHE MIGHT EVEN START TO HATE ME

AFTER ALL, IT'S JUST MY SELFISH DESIRE.

I'M SCARED.

NO MORE.

INSTEAD OF WORRYING LIKE THIS, I SHOULD JUST-

THINGS ARE FINE THE WAY THEY ARE.

.....

Rattle

WELL, SHOUKO-CHAN,

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GO-

SATO,

OR ELSE THERE'S NO WAY I'M TRULY HER BEST FRIEND!

TO GET DRAGGED INTO YOUR PROBLEMS IS MY FONDEST HOPE.

YOU'RE SO IMPORTANT TO ME, I CARE ABOUT YOU MORE THAN I DO MYSELF,

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU...!

YOU'RE MY ONLY FRIEND I CAN TELL MY TRUE FEELINGS TO.

I HAVE TO REACH HER,

THIS FEELING,

YOU OPENED THE DOOR OF MY CONFINED AND NARROW WORLD.

EVEN IF IT'S SELFISH,

YOU TOOK MY HAND IN YOURS,

HAS TO REACH HER.

AND YOU SHARED SO MANY NEW EMOTIONS WITH ME.

I...

But,

Squeeze

I said it...

WELL

I MEAN,

WHAT WAS ...?

HAAH?!

"SOMEONE LIKE"?!

EVEN SOMEONE LIKE SHOUKO-CHAN SAYING ALL THAT-

WELL, EXCUSE ME!

SO PASSIONATE...

THAT WAS A SHOCK.

EVEN WHEN I COMPLETELY BARE MY SOUL TO YOU, YOU STILL MAKE FUN OF ME!

うぃ

Snap

AAH FINE! I TRIED MY BEST AND FAILED.

YOU BITCH!

.....

WHATEVER. I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ANYMORE.

EH-

AFTER EVERYTHING YOU SAID TO TO ME, OF COURSE.

IF I CONTIN-UED LYING TO YOU NOW,

I WOULDN'T BE YOUR FRIEND.

SO I'LL BELIEVE IN YOU.

OKAY. I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

'CAUSE WE'RE

BEST FRIENDS, RIGHT?

WHAT? NO.

I WAS OVERJOYED TO HEAR YOUR FEELINGS, THAT'S ALL.

YOU'RE JUST STRINGING ME ALONG TO MAKE FUN OF ME, AREN'T YOU?!

DID I ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU HATE ME-

YEAH.

REALLY?

RE-ALLY ..?

FUFU.

FRIENDS, HUH?

THANKS, SHOUKO-CHAN.

MY BEST FRIEND.

IT REACHED HER?

MY FEELINGS

TRULY?

Hii

Big hug

SATO-

REALLY?!

Really?

SATO~~~

I'M SO GLAD I TOLD HER...

I'LL BELIVE IN YOU.

I'M SO GLAD...

THANK GOD...

REALLY-

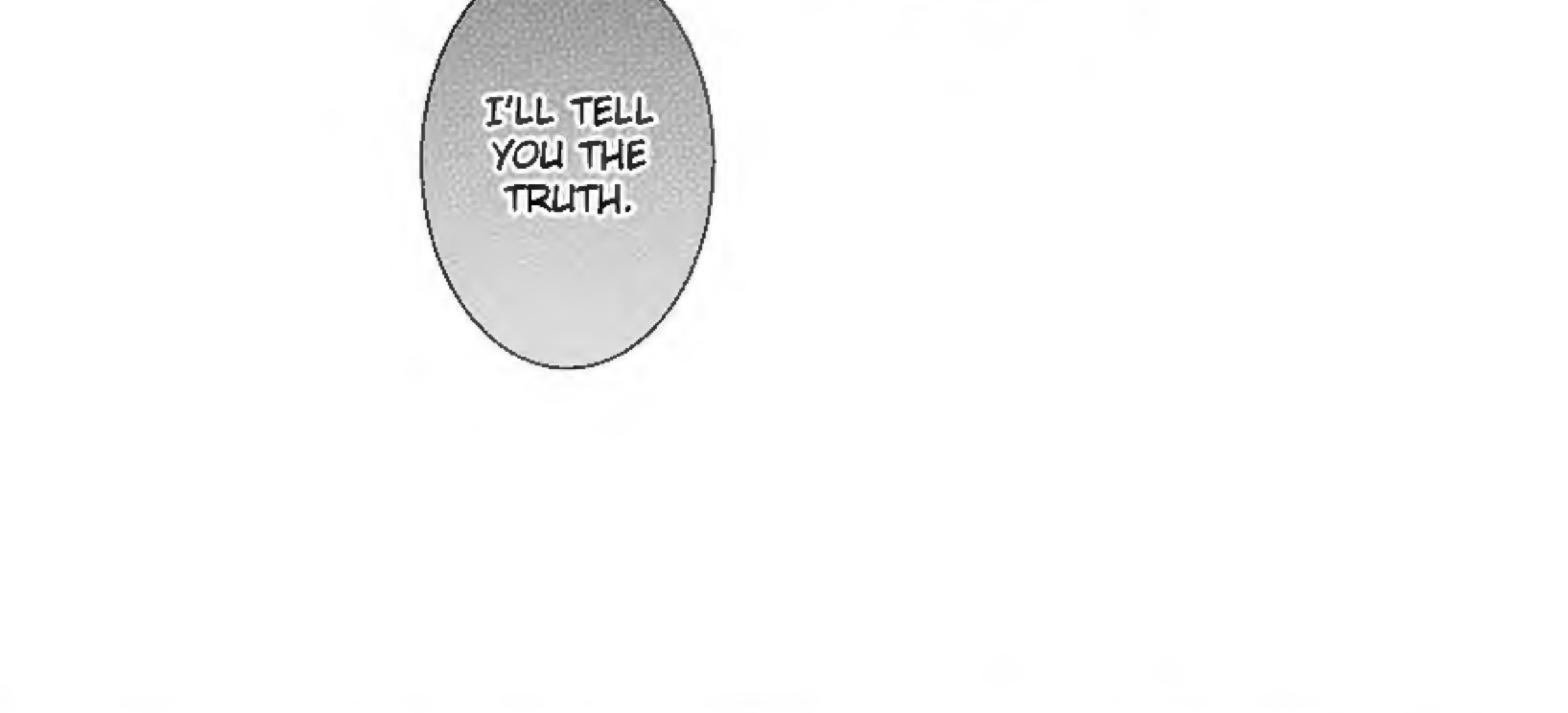
I'M NO MATCH FOR YOU, SHOUKO-CHAN.

WAA AAH

AA AAH

I'LL TRUST THAT YOU'LL ACCEPT ME NO MATTER WHAT.

I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.



FIRST OF ALL, WILL YOU COME TO MY HOUSE?

I THINK IT'LL BE EASIER TO EXPLAIN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR Coff BUSINESS.

desert

oth